

GUIDELINES FOR CHANTING SLOKAS CORRECTLY.

1. Get the METER of the sloka before chanting. This step will eliminate all the possible mistakes in chanting. This is the purpose of studying METER in any sloka.
2. Short letters printed in the book should be chanted short to retain meter, grammar and meaning. कृष्ण should not be chanted कृष्णा. For addressing purpose, the word is कृष्ण , not कृष्णा. The word कृष्ण is masculine, कृष्णा is feminine. कृष्णा , is feminine and stands for DRAUPATI OR RADHA. Another example is देवि. देवि should not be chanted देवी.
3. Long letters printed in the book should be chanted Long to retain meter, grammar and meaning.
4. Don't chant avagraha symbol (्) as अ. By chanting avagraha symbol as अ, number of SYLLABLES of a line increases and thereby the METER, GRAMMAR AND MEANING used in the slokas are damaged. The basis for this is the study of SANSKRIT VISARGA SANDHI RULES. In short , the ् symbol has no sound at all, it is not symbol for अ.
Therefore पद्मनाभोम्रप्रभुः with eight letters should be chanted as पद्मनाभोमरप्रभुः with eight letters only. By chanting it as पद्मनाभो अमरप्रभु with nine letters, the METER, MEANING AND GRAMMAR ARE DAMAGED. A study of VISARGA SANDHI will confirm that पद्मनाभो अमरप्रभुः is WRONG.
5. Don't CREATE ANUSWARAM and additional syllable by splitting the letter म seen in a sloka. Example. कमनु given in the book should be chanted कमनु only ie NA GANAM, not कं अनु.
कंअनु is BHA GANAM.
6. Don't CREATE VISARGAM by splitting the syllable र seen in the text. Eg. देवरहं printed in the text has GU,LA,LA,GU. If we chant it as देवः अहं the original combo is damaged because देवः अहं has GU,GU,LA,GU.
7. While chanting, no sandhi present in a sloka should be split .
नारायणाखिलगुरो of eight letters should be chanted as नारायणाखिलगुरो only. By chanting it as नारायणा अखिलगुरो with nine letters, the METER, MEANING AND GRAMMAR ARE LOST. A study of VOWEL SANDHI will confirm that नारायणा अखिलगुरो is WRONG in chanting.
8. The short Syllable prior to a JODAKSHARAM should not be elongated. The first consonant of a JODAKSHARAM should be doubled while chanting. Example. देवप्रकाशं should be chanted as देवप्-प्रकाशं, not देवा-प्रकाशं.

9. After a VISARGA if क् or ख् comes, then the sound of VISARGA is ख्
10. After a VISARGA if च् or छ् comes, then the sound of VISARGA is श्
11. After a VISARGA if ट् or ठ् comes, then the sound of VISARGA is ष्
12. After a VISARGA if त् or थ् comes, then the sound of VISARGA is स्
13. After a VISARGA if प् or फ् comes, then the sound of VISARGA is फ्
14. After a VISARGA if श् ष् स् comes, then the sound of VISARGA is श् ष् स्
15. After a VISARGA if क्ष comes, then the sound of VISARGA is that of FULL VISARGA.
16. After anuswaram if a VARGAKSHARA comes then the sound of anuswaram is the anunasikam of that VARGA.
Example. देवं+गण in print should be chanted as देवङ्-गण
17. Please stick to the Syllables given in the standard text while chanting. Please chant what is printed in a standard text. While explaining a sloka we can change anything.

CONCLUSION.

We should apply the GUIDELINES FOR CHANTING while chanting Slokas available to us. We should learn to chant what is printed in a standard text. Knowledge of splitting is very useful in a speech session.

HAPPY CHANGING.

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